



ALAMEDA COUNTY CONGESTION MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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Memorandum

June 8, 2009
Agenda Item 5.2

Date: May 30, 2009

To: Sunol Express Lane Joint Powers Authority

From: Leo Scott, Project Manager

Subject: I-680 Express Lane Project: California HOV/Express Lanes Business Plan 2009

Caltrans recently released an updated version of the Business Plan on March 31, 2009. While the complete document is available on the ACCMA website, a summary of the plan with italicized excerpts is provided below:

Purpose of the Plan: *provide a framework to guide the future development and operation of HOV and express lanes in a coordinated and connected fashion recognizable by travelers.*

State of the System: *The current HOV lane system, when considered from a statewide perspective, is no longer providing across-the-board reliable express service as nearly half of the lanes in the state are considered degraded during one or both peak hours by federal standards.*

Recommended Actions:

- ***Enhance system performance*** by upgrading the monitoring system and guidelines to specify future performance monitoring and evaluation in accordance with federal and state requirements.
- ***Increase communication and collaboration among partners*** by sharing information on financing options, defining enforcement roles and working together to develop and implement automated enforcement.
- ***Facilitate effective implementation of the system*** by updating the Caltrans design guidelines, facilitating early decision-making on the physical design of express lanes and working to update the Title 21 requirements.
- ***Increase public acceptance*** by developing common terminology and messages along with a standard symbol to denote express lanes throughout the state.

Proposed Next Steps:

There are several steps called for in the Business Plan, but these few seem most note worthy for the I-680 Project.

- *Develop an on-going coordinating committee for HOV/express lanes and other tolling topics to keep critical issues in focus until resolution and to facilitate on-going coordination.*
- *Support enabling legislation for more widespread tolling authority to support streamlined project development.*
- *Educate public on benefits of HOV and express lanes in a common way to support project financing and approvals.*
- *Revise or replace Title 21 to support new tolling data needs.*

JPA Follow-up:

Staff is monitoring the Business Plan development and will continue to do so as Caltrans moves into implementation. No timeline for implementation of the recommendations has been provided at this time, but Caltrans Headquarters is participating as part of the Bay Area Express Lanes Technical Working Group. Through this relationship, staff will maintain a voice in the on-going statewide process.